

The Times-Dispatch

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SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1913.

JOIN THE SCOUTS.

Everybody might well join the Boy Scouts, whose first big public demonstration in Richmond will be held in the City Auditorium to-night. The Boy Scouts stand for everything that the right thinking, honest American man and woman should stand for. They stand broadly for a better and stronger body, and for a more generous, loyal and kindly spirit of comradeship among all men. They aim to teach these ideals by practical interesting outdoor and indoor activities that have a touch of poetry and romance about them. The Boy Scouts are far from the traditional Sunday school class of the old moral story, and they are equally far from the rough members of a gang, leading and imbibing vicious wisdom and inclinations.

Fathers and mothers and teachers of all sorts should see this exhibition of scout work. It will instruct them as to what their boys can learn by joining a patrol, and it will also give them hints as to what kind of training boys really need. There will be demonstrations of the scout law, life saving, first aid, wireless telegraphy, signaling by flag and otherwise, and many scout games and exercises. The field secretary of the American Boy Scouts—the movement is now widely international—will give a history and picture of the world movement. The Mayor will speak for Richmond, where already some sixteen troops have been organized.

We have heard but one criticism of this wonderful movement. It is said to stress the militaristic ideal too heavily. The boys are taught to dress like soldiers and to live like soldiers, and to believe in the military organization. The advocates of world peace declare that the new generation must be trained in loftier ideals and gentler paths. With this we agree. The boy should not be brought up in the doctrine of force, but the ideal of organization, co-operation and unselfish devotion to comrades is one of the fundamental beliefs of our present society. We need companies of men trained to act together. All we should demand is that they act for peace and beauty and progress in civilization instead of for violence, aggression and injustice. In short, while the scouts use the fine laws of war, yet work for peace, we think that the slight touch of brass buttons and camp terms is only a legitimate lure for the natural boy and does him no real harm.

The very words one hears in scout meetings are inspiring. They are never brutal. Manliness, courage, cleanliness of body and morals, to do one's duty toward God, and obey the scout law, which is later the man-law, to be of service, to learn citizenship and to get rid of bad impulses by active and interesting work—these are great ideals. If the nations ever learn them, war will vanish overnight. Meanwhile, your boy needs life and action with the right spirit in it. He should learn to love the woods and take care of himself. He ought to be able to cook, bind wounds, swim and keep his eyes open. Go to the auditorium to-night and see what this army is doing for other boys.

BARBAROUS BARBERS.

We hope that the New York barber strike will not spread. There is something terrifying even in the thought of a striking barber. Suppose he should not announce he was on a strike, and scalp a few innocent patrons to show the fact? Strikers with bricks and bombs are bad enough, with razors, they become appalling. The only consolation for uncut New York is that they are Italians. Imagine a strike of negro barbers with razors!

New York's peculiar psychology is well illustrated by the kind of strikes there. They are always in the decorative, or pleasure, trades. First, the waiters; then the taxicab drivers; now the barbers. Nowhere else in the world would they have such things. They must be a by-product of the White Way life and the easy money. The parasitical trades that thrive among spenders want a larger share. They try to hold up the hotels and shops. Generally they are beaten for the simple reason that people can always do without luxuries. They eat at home, ride in cars or walk, and stop shaving altogether, if necessary.

About hair-cutting it seems different. The easiest thing would be to let the hirsute crop continue cropping. The gay boulevardiers would return to the long love-locks of the Stuarts. They might wear plumes in their Panamas, and come to knee breeches in a time. After a while, though, their hair would get too long. They would have to plait it at night and have it marcelled by day. The expense for hair-dressers would be worse than paying what the barbers want. The hairpin market would be swamped. The suffragettes would claim it was just plain injustice, another invasion of woman's sphere. No telling how many deaths would occur from automobiles running down unskilled men trying to get their wind-blown locks out of their eyes.

Meanwhile the hair would keep on

growing. Women have their trained so it stops at a nice handy length, but men's has had no educational advantages. It would grow on and on and wrap their feet in its sinuous tangles. The street cars would be full of errant hair. Hair-breadth escapes would be so common as to be meaningless. It is, in fact, a hair-raising prospect.

The only other solution would be for wife to do a little futurist art on the head. New York's sky-line would be more jagged than ever. Divorce lies this way. Really, we started to make fun of the barber's strike. We stay to plead with them to reconsider. This is more serious than the advertisement for safety razors we thought it.

BRIDGES, DANGER AND DELAY.

Isn't Richmond a delightfully amusing place? The City Engineer says that the Ninth Street Bridge will not fall down or blow away just yet. That is good news for the thousands who have to cross this shaky structure daily. There is no immediate danger, though the engineer says that the continued strain of heavy traffic will sooner or later make it unsafe. Meanwhile we will wait to see when that occurs, and if it does not occur before we are ready, we will brace up the old structure and gamble again on its strength. That is a rather funny way of looking at the main artery of communication between the two parts of a big city, but—

When you remember that Richmond has extended the time for the completion of the Mayo Bridge about a year and a half, and is doing nothing now to have this relief ready on the date last promised, namely, on July 1, the comedy element becomes really rich. This new bridge should already have been in use a year. Instead we have to pay some \$4,000 for propping up the old one. The plans for the new one, we believe, are being drawn, but even if the contractor was ready to start replacing the Ninth Street frame to-morrow, we would have to wait until the Mayo structure is done.

Under such conditions, you would think that there would be three gangs of hundreds of men rushing the new bridge through. The city would be driving like mad. Not at all; we have all the time there is. The work is being done in leisurely style, according to the convenience of the contractor. He can get further extensions, and make further excuses. He should not worry.

This situation combines the tragic with the ironical. It is almost historic. The town of Lotus-Idled Williamsburg, about which we have sometimes been merry, could not dream of doing so grotesque a thing. Yet the fun is not the main point. Suppose the old bridge collapses some day despite the City Engineer's watchful supervision. Suppose two street cars should pass each other in the middle of a span, as they have been warned not to do, and send scores of people hurtling to the river. There would be rage and grief then. There would be costly damage suits. We would have to hurry the new bridge at last. Public opinion would wake up. This is a possible catastrophe. How much longer will we wait ignorantly, lazily content to be put off and off?

What do we pay \$25,000 to the Administrative Board for unless they protect the lives of our people?

FREE TRADE FOR RICHMOND'S GOVERNMENT.

The vice of the present national protective tariff is in operation in our city government, and should be destroyed. A tariff wall has been built up about Richmond which should be razed as thoroughly as that which shuts in the entire nation. If the principle is vicious in its application to the country at large, it is vicious in respect to any fraction of the nation.

The government of Richmond is so administered that a prohibitive tariff is imposed upon importations of supplies used in our public institutions and upon expert service for the furtherance of the welfare of the city. These commodities are not marketable here because of the provincial official policy pursued in our city administration. Why? Why should not the city buy supplies for its institutions outside of the city if it can get them cheaper than they can be bought here? Why cannot the city employ expert service if it can get expert service outside Richmond which it cannot get inside Richmond? The cut-throat ward politicians whose only political belief is that city government should be exploited for political ends whisper that "we must patronize home industry; we must protect home people." That explanation is precisely identical with that of the forces of Special Privilege, who have used the protective tariff for the tremendous gain of the few and the immense loss of the many. "Protect American industries" has been the cry under which competition has been stifled and government rendered an inefficient instrument for promoting the popular weal.

Is evidence needed that Richmond levies a prohibitive protective tariff upon the supply of material for institutions and of expert service for the more efficient administration of the municipality? Wednesday night City Sergeant John L. Satterfield, in the course of his campaign for re-election, told his assembled supporters that he took exception to rumors which he said have been circulated to the effect that he bought many of the jail supplies outside of Richmond. The charge he declared groundless. He said: "Practically everything needed for the City Jail is bought right here in Richmond. The largest single item is soap powder, which we buy in ten-barrel lots. I believe this item alone is bought from an out-of-State firm, but through a Richmond agent, who gets his profit." His opponent, Wilbur J. Griggs, is committed to a like policy.

If the officials in charge of public institutions in Richmond can purchase elsewhere supplies of the desired quality cheaper than they can be bought in Richmond, then they ought to be bought elsewhere. Public institutions ought to be operated at the least possible cost to the people. In such a case, the government owes no paternal duty to home industries. None more than The Times-Dispatch believes in the slogan, "Buy it in Richmond," but where institutions can be conducted upon a more economical basis if all or a part of their supplies are bought outside the city, an exception must be taken. Government exists for the protection of the life, liberty and property of the people, and not for the paternalistic protection of industries. Where a city can buy a given article as cheaply at home as abroad, it is justified in purchasing the domestic article, but in no other case.

Is evidence needed that Richmond levies a prohibitive protective tariff upon the importation of expert service to be employed for the more efficient administration of the city government? It was also on Wednesday that the Business Men's Club discussed the Virginia statute which requires that no person shall become a municipal officer until he has been a resident of the State for twelve months. Ashton Starke very aptly said by way of criticism: "A city government that will not allow a trained man of science to serve it until he has been a citizen for a year would be a discredit to a Hottentot village." Unless experts live here they cannot be employed by the city. There's your tariff wall erected at ever-increasing cost to the people. For towns but a month's residence is required; for cities a year is demanded. Why?

The two local tariff walls—one erected by law and the other by the narrowness of certain elements—should be battered down by public opinion. They were established by designing politicians, who would maintain the city government as a close corporation, operated for Special Privilege in the form of inefficient public service.

WHAT THE VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE MUST DO.

The Spartanburg Herald, a Virginia newspaper published in South Carolina, declares that what The Times-Dispatch has had to say concerning the need of greater agricultural development in Virginia through scientific methods is true of South Carolina. Doubtless, but what the Herald has to say about Clemson, the State Agricultural College of South Carolina, is true of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. "Though we have here in Clemson College a splendid State institution that has never been hampered financially, it is nevertheless a fact that that institution's influence has not reached the people and carried to them the lessons and the encouragement its founders and its officers have desired. Somehow it has not gotten hold of the agricultural situation. It has not carried the information it has to the man on the farm, in the dairy or back of the orchard."

"Somehow it has not gotten hold of the agricultural situation." That's what the matter with V. P. I. That is the best diagnosis of the condition at Blacksburg. It is quite true that the financial resources of Clemson are much larger and more stable than those of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, but their cases are on all fours. The Herald thinks that the trouble at the South Carolina institution may be that the farmers have not learned how, when and where to get the information they desire for utilization in the working out of their individual problems. They have not been taught to look to the State agricultural college for the things it can supply.

There must be close connection and efficient co-operation between the farmers and the institution. The gospel of progressive farming must be preached more widely and more inspiring by agricultural evangelists from Blacksburg. Inform the people as to what they can get hold of at V. P. I., and they will take hold of the situation. Samuel Chiles Mitchell astonished the people of South Carolina when he told them that they had a ready servant in their State university and he was not satisfied until he had gone throughout the State urging the people to get into contact with their university. They did. What Mitchell did for South Carolina some one must do for V. P. I., and do it now.

Queen Mary is evidently softening. She appeared at the dinner given by the Earl and Countess of Granard in a fashionable gown, and when the cigarettes were passed, although she refused to take one, she explained that she had no wish to prevent others from enjoying them if they cared to do so.

President Wilson is said to love animals, but it would be hard to make the Tammany tiger believe it.

The common garden variety of official postal card in the United States is to be printed in pale green to conform to the idea of the International Postal Union. The cards of low denomination in foreign countries are printed in green. While the government is at it, why not put a little more art in the post-card designs? Their present ugliness does much to explain the souvenir card mania. Even the most terrible cards of Cubist design are better than the Uncle Sam specimens. We suggest as a compromise that all post-cards be printed with invisible ink on invisible paper.

Mother Goose had a real lurch when she wrote that immortal jingle about the beggars hitting the town in rags and tacks. Only now, they are glad rags and adorn smiles that sell the tags.

Now is the time the schoolmaster himself has to say "Please."

The nurses seem to steal a march on the other sweet girl grades. Some of them will have married a case by June-bride time.

Land, rent, taxes—these are the studies in the new Richmond public school for citizens.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

Mr. Blinks and His Automobile. A gentleman came and sold Mr. Blinks an automobile when Mr. Blinks was thinking of something else. Nevertheless, Mr. Blinks was proud of his automobile, and he enjoyed it to the limit. It became noised about that he had bought it. The next morning, after the fact had been published in the paper, a suave gentleman called at Mr. Blinks' office and, presenting his card, said:

"I am an agent for automobile accessories. What I want to interest you in is a new horn. It makes a noise like a pig under a fence, and is something brand-new. It cannot fail to attract the attention of the pedestrian and the corner policeman. It can be heard eight miles. I will put this horn on your machine complete for \$46. Where is the machine, please, and when shall I put it on?"

"The machine," said Mr. Blinks, "is in the garage. You can put the horn on it now, but I don't want any automobile to make any noise that I can't make. Here is your check."

Five minutes later another suave gentleman called. "I am selling a neat little silk flag to stand upright on the fore part of the automobile, and I know you will want one on your new car."

"Enough said," replied Mr. Blinks. "Put the flag on the car and send me the bill."

The third man came close in the walk of the second. "I am selling a little device," said he, "to signal the corner policeman and other automobile billists. It is a wooden arm which gives the proper signals and operates from the foot of the driver. The wooden arm has a perfect rest hand at the end and the hand is gloved. The driver is not obliged to use his own arm at all in giving the street corner signals. The cost is—"

"Never mind the cost," said Mr. Blinks. "Put the wooden arm on my car. If you also have a wooden head for the driver, you may put that on. Good morning."

"I am selling a new automobile whistle," announced the fourth caller. "It attaches to the exhaust and plays a tune known as 'Oh, You Beautiful Doll.' It is louder than any circus calliope, but more soothing to the ear. It can be heard fourteen miles, yet is quiet and restful."

"Put it on the car," said Mr. Blinks. "I want to be the first man in this town to have one."

"I have here a little hat-lifting device," said the fifth caller. "It attaches to the roof of the car, and by simply pressing a button with your foot the driver can lift his hat to a lady and not take his hands off the operating department of the car. It takes up very little space, and is a very attractive accessory."

"Put it on my car," said Mr. Blinks. "Up until noon the first day gentlemen called and sold Mr. Blinks the following:

Patent cigar lighter to attach to the dash.
Curling iron, electrically operated.
Wireless cooker to attach to the back of the car like a trunk.

Soap dishes, medicine chest and toilet set.

Mr. Blinks went home to lunch, and had been at his office since. He is thinking of leaving California, if the accessories have left enough room in his car to get his family into it.

The Signs of the Times. Methodist ministers are talking about a minimum salary for pastors. Most of the pastors get a minimum salary now.

A politician in Tennessee without a gun is no politician at all.

Winter and spring feel so much alike nowadays that it takes a smart fellow to tell 'em apart.

The trouble with this new-fangled spelling is that it is harder to spell than the old-fashioned kind.

Voice of the People

A Tribute to John S. Wise. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:—A spring of acacia for John S. Wise. To-day, the 15th of May, commemorates the forty-ninth anniversary of "the only schoolboy battle in all history's record," as it is sometimes fondly called. It means that of the cadets of the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington in their brilliant engagement with General John C. Breckinridge's Division arrayed against the heroic cohorts and amazing majesties of General Franz Sigel at New Market, Shenandoah County, Va.

Cadet John Sergeant Wise, who was laid to rest to-day, was one of the heroes of the battle. We, his colleagues, will never forget him as a brilliant, dashing cadet of the Virginia Military Institute and later as a student at the University of Virginia, winning laurel wreaths at both of these great schools.

How well we remember his eloquence as well as his withering sarcasm on cadetism left that pygmy in the barracks in "one red burial blout," the corps of homeless cadets were ordered to Richmond, and occupied that fine building opposite the cemetery, now known as the City Home for the indigent. Cadet Wise's ever restless spirit soon found those walls far too cramped, cramped and confined, where, as a mere boy, and so fought his way out at Annapolis. After the war had thus ended in April, the young subject of this memoir entered the University of Virginia in September, attained his degree as bachelor of law, and also won that proud gaudium, the debater's medal from the Washington Literary Society. How I would love to tell of some of his orations and speeches of his pranks, as well as his duels on field and in drawing-room. Then, too, of his brilliant marriage with Miss Eva Douglas, of Tennessee. Then the many episodes of hunting, fishing and swimming, and especially some of our escapades of all sorts, always made rare and racy with his natural repertoire of "funny stories" and inimitable manner in telling them.

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Abe Martin



There's no place like home—unless the sewin' woman is there. What's it for the 'ole time feller that couldn't name the Vice-President?



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the hustings either as lawyer or orator, and formed a partnership in law upon graduating at the university in Richmond as the junior partner of his distinguished father, Hon. Henry A. Wise. He followed his father's path in the graphic account of him in your notice of his demise.

Briefly and as meaningfully as I can and tenderly I will place the altar of his ashes now at rest under the shade of the trees and by the river he loved so well in beautiful Hollywood, where he was at rest from "life's fitful fever," for his life was one of feverish activity. Note his first act that brought him into publicity at the tender age of twelve. His father, the Governor of Virginia, called out troops to suppress the riotous mobs of the New York City, and with these troops went Governor Wise. His son, John, a restless lad, insisted on going.

His father, an instantly fortified him not to go. He was a cadet of the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington in their brilliant engagement with General John C. Breckinridge's Division arrayed against the heroic cohorts and amazing majesties of General Franz Sigel at New Market, Shenandoah County, Va.

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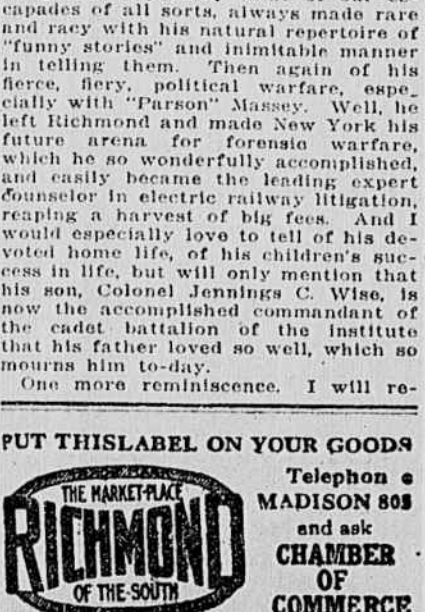
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FLIES!



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fought, and he fought so hard and so fiercely that in the end he felt that he had alienated his people, and that the atmosphere was too hostile to be breathed any longer with comfort, or, at least, that he had burned his bridges behind him and that there was no longer any chance of preferment for him in his native State. But though he was a cadet when the white heat of his passion and was unreasonably political passion and was unreasonably political to the last, he was not a Benedict Arnold, nor a traitor in any sense of the word, as many of his implacable brother Virginians were inclined to think him at the time. He did what some other Southerners have done—joined hands with the Republic—without the punishment that was meted out to him. And if he did it more aggressively than others, it was because he came of a leonine stock and was born with claws and teeth.

Two years ago he moved back to Virginia and was on his way there when attacked by his last illness. So that the exile was a Virginian in fact, as well as in spirit, when the end came.

His death takes the reminiscent Virginian back to great days and to a host of noble names, of which that of his father, Henry A. Wise, Governor, diplomat, soldier, was not the least resplendent. With such a lineage and the inheritance of inspiring family and State traditions, it was as impossible for him to be anything less than a great man, with his character and his inborn instincts as to change the blood in his veins. Who but a Virginian sportsman could have written such a book as "Diomed," racy of the old, with its characteristic pictures of the Virginian habits of life and Virginian standards and ideals?

There is a peculiar pathos about the life of this Virginia exile who went home at last to spend his final days. A bold, brilliant, strong son of the Mother of States, who may well give him a place of honor among the great men of his race and country, who sucked in their courage and unconquered spirit from her breast—Baltimore Sun.

A Great Favorite of V. M. I. Men. Mr. Wise was a man of brilliant intellect, of unusual force and a political debater of great ability. He never lost his love for Virginia, however, and was particularly devoted to the V. M. I. He was a